Smith's Report

ON THE HOLOCAUST CONTROVERSY

Number 66, December 1999

Smith's Report informs contributors of what Smith is doing, with a lot of help from his friends, to take revisionist theory to the campus, to media, and to the American people.

Friend:

The Campus Project has had a fine fall season. There was a strong, ongoing story at Hofstra U that pulled in national media. The Boise State Arbiter was not far behind. The second issue of ***The Revisionist*** is hot off the press, has a new wrap on front and back covers, and a content that equals and maybe surpasses that of issue number one. **TR** 2 was also easier to produce than number one, thanks to getting a little production experience under out belt.

Our Holocaust Studies advertisement, which was reproduced in **SR** 65, and is the "toughest" ad we have ever tried to place, has run at several more universities and liberal arts colleges, including U Wisconsin-Stout, Taylor U (IN), State U of New York-Stonybrook, Schoolcraft College (MI), Ouachita Baptist U (AK), Moorhead State U (MN), Hollins College (VA), and Randolph-Macon Woman's College (VA).

Revisionist documents on CODOHWeb are being accessed at a rate of 15,000 to 20,000 times daily, and sometimes more. On 12 December CODOH documents were accessed almost 30,000 times (!). A surge like that typically suggests a story about the Campus Project has appeared in some prominent publication, which suggests in turn that the 10,000-access surge represents *new people* accessing revisionist documents.

With this issue of **SR** I'm reproducing three news articles written by **U Delaware** Review journalists Ryan Cormier and Melissa Hankins. Cormier is the one who contacted me and handled the email and telephone interviews. As usual, I didn't know what to expect.

Once I read the articles I wrote to congratulate Cormier for his honesty, for actually quoting some of what I said without apologizing for it—almost unheard of

The Review, University of Delaware
November 23, 1999

HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST STRIKES AGAIN

By Melissa Hankins and Ryan Cormier
Contributing Editors

Bradley R. Smith, the Holocaust revisionist famous for spouting his views through advertisements in college newspapers, is making waves at Hofstra University.

The full-time gadfly has submitted a 24-page booklet portraying death camps as far-fetched sob stories to college newspapers across the country.

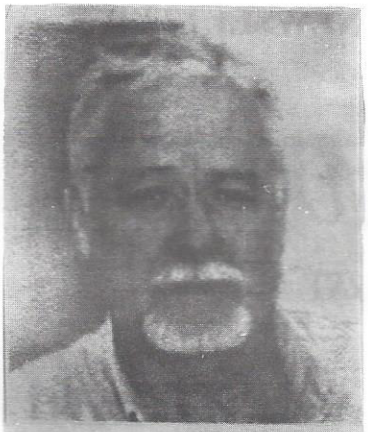
While Liz Johnson, editor in chief of The Review, refused to publish the insert, the editor of The Chronicle at Hofstra decided to take Smith's money and run "The Revisionist."

Johnson's decision is an about-face compared to 1997, when The Review ran a column and an ad by Smith.

His presence permeated the Dec. 5, 1997 issue of The Review as a plethora of his theories, combined with several shaky editorial decisions, made up the infamous edition.

Ultimately, the combination of the two coalesced into a strong campus and community backlash similar to what is currently occurring at Hofstra.

Smith, famous for slipping his radical revisions into the hands of college journalists, submitted a column to The Review that semester describing the Holocaust as a collection of false "gas chamber tales." The fall 1997 editors



Bradley R. Smith

placed it on the editorial pages.

Smith also submitted an ad offering $50,000 to anyone helping to air his Holocaust denial on national television. The ad department ran it for $200, the usual rate.

A staff-produced cartoon joined Smith's column on the editorial pages. The tongue-in-cheek cartoon depicted university rugby players as Hasidic Jews refusing to testify against each other. (Amy Grossberg's Jewish mother was then making headlines for refusing to testify at her daughter's trial at the same time as the rape trial of a university rugby player.)

And a glaringly false Dec. 25 folio line on the top of the editorial page, viewed by many as yet another dig at the Jewish community, not only topped off the slanted editorial pages, but The Review's suddenly questionable reputation as well.

The former Review staff, headed by then Editor in Chief Leo Shane III, found itself roasting in a fiery debate that winter, fueled by an angry crowd of students, religious leaders and community members.

The staff members dismissed the anti-Semitic charges directed at them, but eventually claimed fault in creating the controversy.

It was a case, they insisted, of irresponsibility and bad judgments on the part of several student journalists who has been duped by one crafty revisionist writer.

"We printed something very hurtful to the community without knowing it and not thinking of the consequences," Shane said. "We became Bradley Smith's disciples because we let our guard down."

An autopsy of the issue revealed the events that helped Smith find a temporary home in the pages of The Review.

Preoccupied with impending finals, The Review's reporters failed to supply enough copy for the issue, so desperate editors said they filled the blank pages with what was handy -- Smith's column. While some editors said they used it because they saw no factual errors, Shane said he was not aware of the column.

Meanwhile, advertising representatives said they glanced at the ad, saw the word Holocaust, and assumed it came from Hillel, the university's Jewish student organization. Advertising representatives said they were also unaware of the column.

Amid this miscommunication and shaky staff decisions came the cartoon. It was unrelated to Smith, and, out of context, not nearly as explosive.

English professor and Review advisor Ben Yagoda, who is Jewish, said he even thought it as "kind of funny, clever."

But when viewed with the other Jewish-related commentary of the issue, the sketch was viewed as more cause for concern.

The final blow, the Christmas deadline looming over the image of the religiously converted rugby team, was said to be one more mistake committed by harried Reviewers. Though the staff cried coincidence rather than ill will, some found the coincidence hard to accept.

Hillel Executive Director Renee Shatz recently said the explanations were not enough to calm her churning stomach, but admits these blunders could and probably did occur—with the exception of the folio line.

"It's a very sore point," she said. "The whole thing is just a little too ironic—there is a shadow hanging over The Review."

In any case, Shatz said, all the excuses in the world could not have saved the newspaper once this particular issue crept through the campus and community.

Rabbi Elizer Sneiderman, director of the university's Jewish social service organization Chabad, recently said he was furious at that issue of the newspaper.

"At the time I thought there was conspiracy and malice associated with the events," he said. "It seemed like someone was using the paper as an attack on the Jewish community."

Sneiderman said several indignant students craved swift revenge.

"They wanted to storm The Review's offices and gather up all the papers and burn them," he said. "Flyers were circulated with the cartoon from The Review and a cartoon from Nazi Germany saying What difference does 50 years make?"

These dark clouds did not hang solely over the student journalists. A later Hillel meeting re-directed energy to the administration, Sneiderman said, where students decided President David P. Roselles tone was distant. They responded with a massive e-mail campaign in the hopes of shutting down Roselle's server.

Roselle had questioned the newspaper about the ad, column and cartoon, but not to the satisfaction of those angered by the issue.

Review advisor and English professor Harris Ross said Roselle was right to reject any responsibility, though. Ross said he was much more concerned with the staff's acknowledgement of blame.

Ross said the staff originally defended the inclusion of the ad and the column under First Amendment rights—the very reason, Smith says, that newspapers should print his Holocaust denial.

"But we couldn't grab onto First Amendment issues retroactively when in reality we didn't even know what we were printing," Ross said. "We had to apologize or be willing to accept material from every hate group that came along."

Advisors continued to push for an apology, and the next issue of The Review included one. However, the apology spawned more anger than satisfaction.

"The Review apologizes for any confusion," it read. "This paper serves as a public forum for debate and columns and paid advertisements do not necessarily reflect the attitudes of the

viewing our procedure for accepting advertisements and columns."

The Review was deemed remorseless by many, but the friction began to ease at a meeting at the Wesley Foundation shortly after the apologies publication.

Laura Lee Wilson, executive director of the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, said the meeting was the beginning of a resolution.

"There was a real cooperative spirit of healing and a far better understanding of the pain created," she said. "I think the first apology was still out of intense ignorance as well as some arrogance. It was not sincere because they were told to do it. But the meeting brought about a different level of feeling."

Shane dropped his First Amendment shield and agreed to work with university religious leaders. Together they constructed a longer and more apologetic letter to Review readers.

"Smith had a lot of ridiculous views, but a bright enough mind to dupe people into printing this," Shane said. "I just didn't read everything and this guy is smart."

As time passed, some campus leaders softened their harsh judgments on the student journalists.

Sneiderman said, "Some of my anger faded. From the outside, we think [The Review] is an organization that really knows what's going on, but then we realized its just a bunch of students who may make mistakes and editors not necessarily going over everything with a fine-toothed comb.

"These people are inexperienced."

While inexperience could be used as an excuse, general circulation newspapers across the country staffed with professional journalists and advertising personnel make similar mistakes.

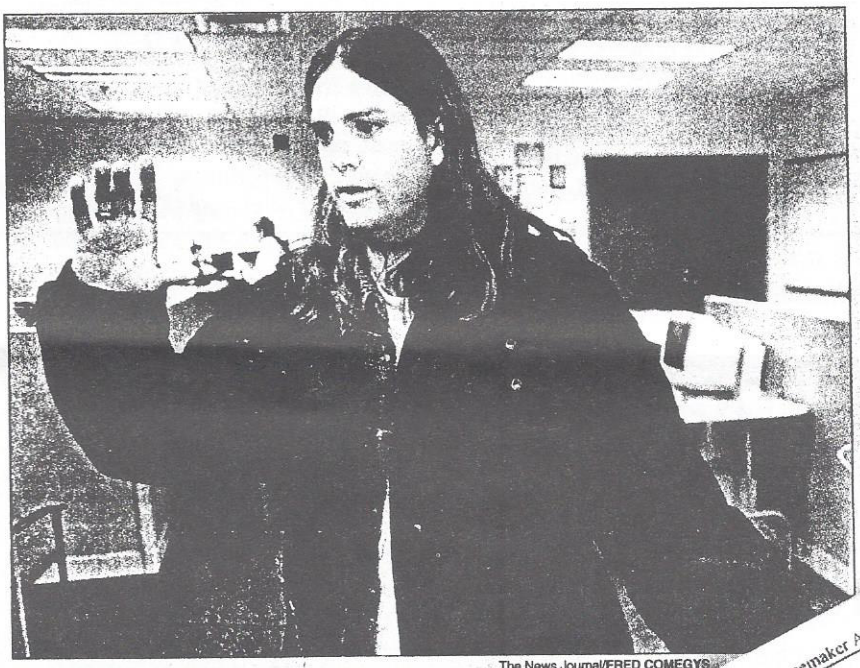
Sam Martin, the News Journals ad director, said he has been amazed at some of the items his staff has missed.

"Quite frankly, some things slip in," he said. "A couple of times I've looked at the paper and gone, Whoa, how did you let that get in there?"

But students are particularly naive, Sneiderman said.

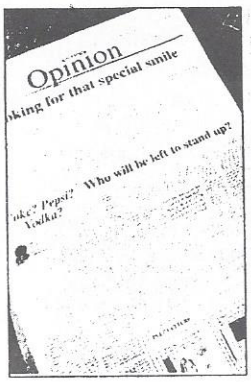
"One thing that struck me is how ignorant they were about historical facts," Sneiderman said. "I brought in a picture book of the Holocaust and one editor said, 'Well, can't I question the Holocaust's existence?' and he wouldn't look at the pictures.

"When he finally did, he started crying."



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

Above: Leo Shane III, editor-in-chief of UD's The Review, defends the paper's running of a column, ad and editorial cartoon that offended Jewish students and faculty.

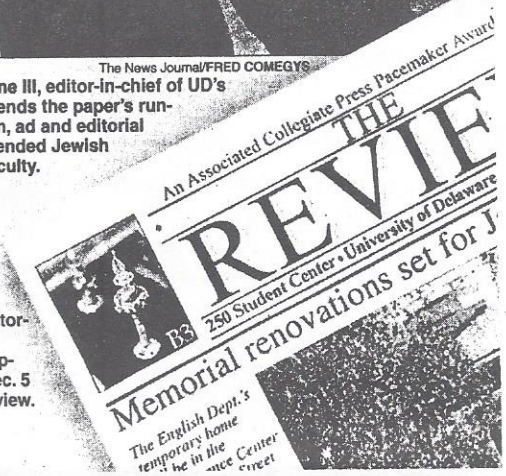

Opinion

king for that special smile

Who will be left to stand up?

Turmoil at The Review

A column by historical revisionist Bradley Smith appeared in the Dec. 5 issue of The Review.


An Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award

THE REVIE

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B3

Memorial renovations set for J

The English Dept.'s temporary home

Existence of Holocaust questioned in column, ad

Another unfortunate aspect of Smith's ads is the way he uses students, said Sara Horowitz, former director of Jewish studies at the university.

"Smith doesn't try to put his ads in the New York Times," she said. "He is trying to trick students. They have a measure of rebelliousness and skepticism and Smith is trying to tap into this. If I were a student, I'd be offended. He's looking for an

easy mark."

Manipulating the young and impressionable is widely recognized as Smith's specialty. Once he convinces fledgling journalists that he has every right to their paper, Shatz said, he then sits back and maximizes on the media attention.

"The News Journal reported this whole mess on the front page," she said. "Reporters were swarming the campus looking for interviews. It was really blown up. This exposure fed into what Smith really wanted the attention. CBS News Magazine, 60 Minutes, they all had whole segments on Smith."

While many complain journalists reporting on Smith only give him the attention he craves, others, like former Hillel president Janice Selekman, said they realize Smith will continue sending out his controversial ads and columns regardless.

"If we don't keep the conversation alive, it will happen again," said Selekman, current chair of the university's nursing department.

With about 25 percent of students being new to the country's college campuses every year, institutional memory is not exactly a strong point. Keeping Smith and his campus project a hot topic may be a college newspapers only defense.

And, according to Shane, this is one university that better keep up its arms. "The Review is now on Smiths A-list," he said. "The Review is going to get that ad until he kicks the bucket."

The Review, University of Delaware

December 3, 1999

HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST MANIPULATES THE MEDIA

By Ryan Cormier and
Melissa Hankins

Contributing Editors

For someone who wants an "open debate" over the particulars of the Holocaust, Bradley R. Smith sure does avoid having an open conversation.

The Holocaust revisionist will only be interviewed by the print press through e-mail. "It is very rare that a reporter understands what the story is," he says, over e-mail, of course.

And when it comes to radio or television reporters, he will do only live interviews, calling pre-taped packaged news reports "canned."

Live interviews allow him to preach unedited, a staple of his guerilla campaign to spread the word that the Holocaust is nothing but an exaggeration of a small-scale tragedy. (He estimates only 300,000 to one million Jews died in the Holocaust, not the widely accepted figure of six million.)

Smith has mastered the media by placing provocative, cheap advertisements in college newspapers.

When the ads are printed, a firestorm of controversy ensues, drawing in the local community newspaper to cover what is then considered "news."

"If a newspaper doesn't print his advertisement, he [Smith] loses 33 cents," says Leo Shane III, editor in chief of The Review in 1997. "If we do print it, he loses no credibility - he has none - and the newspaper is attacked.

"It is sickening how well he does it." Shane, who now works as a reporter at The Intelligencer Record in Doylestown, Pa., should know. The December 5, 1997, issue of The Review ran not only Smith's advertisement, but also an editorial column by the man whom the Anti-Defamation League calls a veteran Holocaust denier and hate-peddler.

ADL's Jeffrey Ross, the director of campus affairs for the organization formed to fight anti-Semitism, says Smith and his campaign have pushed Holocaust revisionism to the forefront.

He says that before the 1990s, Holocaust revisionism hardly ever came up in discussions about the Holocaust.

But that has all changed. "Holocaust denial has been put on the map, I would argue more than any other way, through his campus campaign," Ross says.

Smith says he targets college newspapers for several reasons. He says college campuses are where "intellectual freedom is supposed to be the ideal" and a place where there are large numbers of young "open-minded" people.

A college campus, Smith says, is a self-contained community where, when a story develops, there is a chance it will get the attention of a large percentage of the population.

He says that before the 1990s, Holocaust revisionism hardly ever came up in discussions about the Holocaust.

But that has all changed. "Holocaust denial has been put on the map, I would argue more than any other way, through his campus campaign," Ross says.

Ross offers other reasons why Smith uses the college media. For one thing, Ross says, newsrooms on college campuses are almost always filled with young journalists working at the student newspaper while juggling classwork.

"In many cases," he says, "you have a unique mixture of idealism and naiveté and in other cases you

have sloppiness and stupidity."

But Smith strongly denies he tricks busy college students by disguising his ads as First Amendment-related, calling those who believe that "cry babies."

"The cry baby factor," he says, "is simply one more ruse to get away from the revisionist text."

Intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights are causes Smith mentions often, but Ross says they are used only to steer the focus away from Smith's inane beliefs.

"It is not a First Amendment issue," he says, "although it masquerades as one."

Smith says he is not questioning whether the Holocaust occurred, but added that he is skeptical about "war stories."

"The Holocaust," he says, "is an immense collection of war stories written by the victor, embellished in a cultural environment that precludes honest discourse, prohibits skepticism and punishes those who do not follow the orthodox line on the matter."

In writings posted to his Committee For Open Debate on the Holocaust Web site, he professes that he "no longer believes the German state pursued a plan to kill all Jews or used homicidal gassing chambers for mass murder."

Ross says Smith's goal is simple: to legitimize Holocaust denial as a valid Holocaust study - to create a debate where there is none.

Smith, a 69-year-old high-school graduate, lives in Baja, Mexico, with his wife Irene. He has two daughters: Magaly, 26, working in the San Diego school system, and Paloma, 13, who lives with him and goes to junior high school in Mexico.

He says he graduated from Fremont High School in South Central Los Angeles and was brought up in a Catholic family. But he says he put his religious beliefs to rest when he was 13.

"I bought a horse and gave up the Sunday school," he says. "When I was 20, I cut a deal with God: I leave him alone, he leaves me alone."

But no such arrangement exists between Smith and the college newspapers he hounds.

Smith says he got the idea for the ad campaign in 1989 after he sent Penn State University's daily student newspaper, The Daily Collegian, a 1-inch by 1-inch ad offering access to a revisionist scholarship.

The ad caused quite a stir and the paper ended up pulling it from further issues and returning Smith's payment.

"I was taken by surprise at all the excitement," he says. And ever since, he has been spouting off about the "truths" of the Holocaust from the office in his home.

Although he has never been to Poland and seen Auschwitz for himself, Smith says he doesn't have to go there to know what really happened.

"I don't have to schlep around Europe looking at collapsed morgues to argue for intellectual freedom," Smith says. "I can do it without ever leaving the room I work in."

For those not familiar with Smith, Ross says to simply look at the latest anti-Semitic ad Smith is peddling to college newspapers across the country.

The ad calls "Schindler's List" a "cheap novel" and Smith says the film's Oscar win was no surprise.

"The film industry," he says, "is run from the top down by Jews and expressions of anti-German bigotry."

His unorthodox views, to put it lightly, have not made him a popular person across the country, and that includes the University of Delaware's campus.

Sara Horowitz, the director of Jewish Studies at the university when The Review ran the ad, says Smith is a flat-out liar.

"At heart," she says, "his message is just so blatantly false and he's showing an incredible disrespect for the intelligence of the students."

Shane, the editor who unwittingly ran Smith's advertisement in 1997, says the experience opened his eyes to all forms of hate.

"It is not the Ku Klux Klan marching down Main Street in their robes," he says. "It is a subversive letter campaign with a much more scarier bigot than there used to be."

The ADL's Ross agrees: "This is sort of the white-collar version of the hate movement, but part of the hate movement nonetheless. He is out to peddle a message of hate."

But the peddling, Smith says, is not going to end any time soon. He sent out 250 advertisements to college papers this year, spending an estimated $15,000.

The money comes from The Smith Report, a newsletter he publishes. While the newsletter costs a small amount, he uses it to solicit large sums of money from a few individuals.

He says the newsletter has a subscriber base of only about 2,000, but quickly adds that his Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust Web site gets 15 to 25,000 hits a day - a number that is hard to confirm or deny.

Ross dedicates most of his time to tracking Smith and trying to get the word out to college newspaper editors about the ad campaign.

He says the institutional memory at college newspapers is not strong.

"Every year on a college campus, 25 percent of the people are people who haven't been there before," he says. "And four years down the road, most of the student body has turned over."

The December 5, 1997, issue of The Review spawned the same conflict played out at more than 200 college campuses across the country since Smith began his campaign in 1991.

In 1998 alone, the ADL says 26 student newspapers ran the ad, including Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Kent State University and the Uni-

versity of Vermont.

At many of the schools where the advertisement is printed, a controversy ensues along with a moral quandary: What to do with the check Smith sent to pay for the ad?

Offered the money by apologetic college journalists, many Jewish groups have refused the money, calling it tainted. Usually the check is just torn up and discarded. Smith calls that "a little piece of theater to suppress the minority view."

But either way, Smith comes out on top. "He laughs all the way to the bank," Ross says. "For him, whatever happens is a win-win situation."

The Review, University of Delaware
December 7, 1999

NATIONAL AD STIRS ETHICAL QUESTIONS

By Ryan Cormier and Melissa Hankins
Contributing Editors

It seemed as if an all-out war had broken out on campus two years ago.

Faculty members and students condemned The Review for running a column and an ad by a known Holocaust revisionist on December 5, 1997, and the paper in turn defended itself.

But what happened at Delaware was really only a battle in a bigger war—a war masterminded by Bradley R. Smith and his Committee For Open Debate on the Holocaust.

It is a broad-ranging cultural and religious war that inspires bitter recriminations on all sides, and during the 1990s the battleground has often been the sensitized terrain of college newspapers.

It is also a war that centers around important questions raised in recent years concerning the limits of hate speech and the First Amendment guarantees of free speech and press in America.

When The Review ran materials spewing his controversial beliefs, a stormy debate ensued - a carbon copy of what has happened on hundreds of campuses across the country since Smith began his "Campus Project."

Since 1991, it is estimated that he has placed about 210 ads at about 190 college newspapers. Considering he sends out around 250 ads each year, only a few make it into the newspapers.

But the ones that do cause quite a stir.

The most recent round came when Hofstra University's student newspaper, The Chronicle, printed Smith's 24-page insert filled with writings which have been widely denounced as Holocaust denial material.

In a major coup for Smith (second only to the printing of his ad at the Jewish-sponsored Brandeis University in 1994), the protests heated up over the insert, luring national coverage from all the major television networks along with the New York Times to the university.

Shawna VanNess, the editor of the paper, said The Chronicle decided to run the insert to expose Smith's beliefs.

"It is scary the number of people who don't know there are people like him out there," she said. "It has been weeks since we printed it and people are still talking about it.

"Whether they agree with our decision or not, everyone knows who Bradley R. Smith is now."

Smith offered the inserts to 30 universities but Hofstra is the only university that took him up on the offer so far.

And judging from the attacks on VanNess, there may not be another editor willing to print it.

She said she has been called an anti-Semite and picked apart by angered students and faculty on Hofstra's campus.

In a rare telephone interview, Smith said the editors who choose to run his materials are standing up to the social norm and are always criticized heavily.

"The editor is always hung out to dry in public," he said, "and is condemned for having done what he or she thinks is in the best interest of the free press."

And while VanNess is in the minority when it comes to deciding to print the insert, she does have some defenders.

Paul McMasters, the First Amendment specialist for the Freedom Forum in Washington D.C., said he gets queasy when groups start telling newspapers what they can and cannot run.

McMasters said Smith has realized he can count on college officials to raise the profile of his views "far beyond what they are probably worth."

"I think if I was a college official I would be a little embarrassed to be so predictable,"

"The school newspaper is a public forum established to convey information to the campus community," he said, "and accepting an ad doesn't necessarily endorse its content, whether it is for a bottle of beer or a provocative piece of historical revisionism."

He said it is totally legitimate for an editor to print this kind of information in context so people can judge it for themselves.

But there are many that disagree with him, including Deborah E.

Lipstadt, author of 1993's "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Growth and Memory."

She said any college newspaper deciding to run Smith's materials is making a critical mistake.

"I don't think they would run an ad that states that the Earth is flat or that whites should kill blacks," she said. "I also don't think they would run an ad by the Ku Klux Klan, but somehow they fail to notice this is prejudice and anti-Semitism."

Lipstadt, a religion professor at Emory University, maintains that those who claim this is a case about freedom of speech are missing the point.

"It is simply not about freedom of speech," she said. "Nobody said the newspapers cannot print it - it is an issue of journalistic responsibility."

While the debate rages on over the ads, some also dispute the effectiveness of the protests over the ads.

McMasters said Smith has realized he can count on college officials to raise the profile of his views "far beyond what they are probably worth."

"I think if I was a college official I would be a little embarrassed to be so predictable," he said. "College officials and other groups raise the profile of these things simply by objecting to them or reacting to them rather strenuously."

However, Jeffery Ross, director of campus affairs for the Anti-Defamation League, said the argument of "If you ignore it, it will go away" is just plain wrong.

"Any act of terrorism depends on communication for its effectiveness," he said. "So if there is a terrorist bombing and it gets in the headlines, then it has the effect of terrorizing people.

"When you report on something that does harm, you are spreading the harm, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't respond to it."

Smith said he believes the protests are merely a ploy to criticize the newspapers while ignoring his opinion.

"As I believe the University of Delaware affair was, I think the Hofstra affair is really emblematic of what happens," he said. "They ran a 24-page advertisement of mine with close to 20,000 words and no one at Hofstra has referenced anything that is in the ad.

"The president, the faculty, Hillel [Jewish student group] and the ADL have all referenced nothing, but condemned it all."

The executive director of university relations at Hofstra, Michael DeLuise, made his frustration at Smith clear.

"I'm angry that a man who only spends a few hundred dollars can magically get thousands of dollars of free press when his stupid, insensitive ideas are spread all over college newspapers," he said. "To let him grandstand all over the media is ridiculous."

One thing Smith has clearly done with his ads is to create a to-print-or-not-to-print debate within the ranks of the college media elite.

David Basler, the editor of the Daily Kent Stater at Kent State University, has printed Smith's ads before and said he would do so again.

While Basler said he doesn't agree with Smiths opinion, he added that he believes Smith has a right to voice his beliefs in the newspaper.

"I believe in his right of freedom of speech just like I would hope he would believe in mine," he said. "Most of the people who complain are of the opinion that, Smith doesn't have the right to voice his opinion, but I do.

"That is not right. If you want people to listen to your opinion, you have to be willing to listen to peoples; opinions whether you agree with them or not."

Mark Goodman, the executive director of the Student Press law Center, said his organization, which dispenses free legal advice to student editors, supports newspapers that run the ads as long as the decision was well informed.

"What most student newspapers say is it's a First Amendment issue," he said, "based on their belief that we as a news organization have a right to run all kinds of information for readers and to let them decide if it is good or bad, worthy or not.

"We would be in a lot of trouble if newspapers only ran ads they believed in, from abortion to political candidates."

Yet many editors at college newspapers disagree. Evan Thies, news editor at the Daily Orange at Syracuse University, said the freedom of speech shield pertains to pamphlets and newsletters, but stops at the newsroom door.

"Newspaper editors are gatekeepers—we do not print in whole what people want us to and will not be held hostage by their ideas," he said. "Newspapers are not simply a bulletin board.

"Newspapers strive to reflect what the public is saying, but it is not our duty to ensure every person gets in the newspaper."

Thies said the Daily Orange received Smith's insert earlier this semester and refused to print it.

"Last year, our editor in chief got the ad and discussed it with members of the staff and we determined that we do not print lies," he said. "While we do print material some people may find offensive, whether it be tobacco or adult advertising, none of those things are based on lies -- and it is obvious that he is lying."

The editor in chief of The Signal at Georgia State University, Brad Pilcher, also said he is in the business of printing the truth over lies.

"It is a newspaper's obligation to publish the truth for its readers," he said. "This is its purpose, and this ad is intentionally misleading."

But Kent State's Basler said editors need to let their readers make their own decisions on what are legitimate opinions.

He said any person with a "head on their shoulders" will read Smith's ads and realize his beliefs are bogus.

"Everybody knows that the Earth

is round," he said, "and if I put an ad in the paper saying the Earth is flat, well that is my right to believe that, but it isn't true."

Thies sees the situation in a different light. He said Smith is targeting college editors who like to think of themselves as open-minded.

"He is preying on editors like myself who consider themselves freedom of information purists and using their virtuous beliefs against them," he said. "On one hand, you want your newspaper to be as open to its community as possible, but on the other hand you know you have to have a commitment to the truth."

Katherine Stroup, editor of The Chronicle at Duke University where Smith's ad ran in 1991, said his ad should be run in the newspaper, but only with accompanying editorials and articles explaining who he is.

However, she said rejecting the ad and only printing articles about him is just as bad as running the ad without accompanying materials.

"If you only let Smith speak in boundaries you approve of, you are in danger of consolidating power," she said. "Newspapers have a responsibility to place the ad, but in context with editorials and stories.

"This way you are still giving him the opportunity to use his voice but you're placing it all in context."

Stroup said she will run his ad again if given the opportunity, but this time it will be "with complete coverage that looks both at the message and the messenger."

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among professionals. There is a good deal that can be objected to in the articles, but compared to what is written by professionals, I think the U Delaware reporters did a good job. It's not often you get this kind of behind-the-scenes reporting on the reaction to CODOH ads.

Boise State University. The BSU *Arbiter* distributed the first issue of ***The Revisionist*** in its edition of 17 November. I was unable to get plugged into it until about ten days ago. Editor Erica Hull is standing tall in the face of condemnation and—get this—death threats, just as Shawna VanNess is doing at Hofstra U. The strong American woman is still with us, even during the age of Generation X.

The Arbiter received the usual letters of outrage from faculty, as well as a couple encouraging ones from students, among them an apparent Buddhist. Thirty-six professors, among them 17 historians, signed a letter announcing their "outrage" at Erica Hull's "lack of judgment" in distributing the "defamatory, anti-Semitic tract" without including "commentary from scholars who study the Holocaust...." Well, I would like to see that too. That's what I'm trying to encourage. I have a feeling the professors are protesting in bad faith.

The most interesting and most heart-felt letter printed in the paper was written by the Arbiter's faculty advisor Peter Wollheim. Turns out his father was interned at Auschwitz and afterwards testified against Adolf Eichmann. He doesn't say where or when.

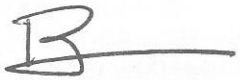
Wollheim writes: "In three and a half years as faculty advisor of he Arbiter, I have never asked for personal space in this newspaper. Recent events have forced me to ask for this exception.... The recent spate of death threats, addressed to the editor and staff of The Arbiter, and the outright theft of copies of the last issue [the issue where TR was inserted—Ed.], represent far more than a personal irony. They are an outright insult to the memory of my parents, and of the other immediate family members I lost to the Holocaust."

Professor Wollheim then addresses the thieves and threatmongers: "If you have any shred of decency about you, surrender yourselves immediately – right this minute – to the proper authorities for the punishment you deserve. By employing these perverted, outright fascisitic [sic] tactics, you have handed the moral high ground right back to pro-Nazi sympathizes, confirming some of their worst racial stereotypes and blurring the ethical lines between you and them.

"Holocaust deniers can be refuted; your cowardice can not."

Pretty good letter. He's misinformed about revisionism and most revisionists, but a good honest letter.

The work is going well. With your continued support, it will continue to go well. Without you, it won't go anywhere. So thanks, and have a good Christmas and (not all of you are Christians) a good holiday season.



Bradley

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